

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064592

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064592

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT:PC/CAR WILDLIFE PROGRAM AND ESPIONAGE RUMORS

REF: (A) BANGUI 393;(B) BANGUI 397 (C) BANGUI 408

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON RESPONSE TO REFTEL A PROVIDES TENTATIVE, POSITIVE REACTION TO POSSIBILITY OF COLLABORATION WITH FRENCH IN CAR WILDLIFE PROJECT. HOWEVER, IN VIEW CURRENT ESPIONAGE CONTROVERSY WITH ALLEGED USG INVOLVEMENT (REFTELS B AND C) PC WASHINGTON PREFERS TO WITHHOLD DEFINITE COMMITMENT UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED.
 2. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR'S ASSESSMENT AS TO (1) WHETHER CURRENT CONTROVERSY SERIOUS ENOUGH TO POSE ANY THREAT TO EXISTING PEACE CORPS PROGRAM AND SAFETY PCV'S; AND 2) WHETHER YOU CONCUR IN PEACE CORPS TAKING POSITIVE ROLE IN THIS APPARENTLY WORTHWHILE PROJECT WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO GOCAR.
 3. DEPARTMENT ALSO CONCERNED THAT ON BASIS OF RESPONSE PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON SENT TO DIRECTOR KIMMINS, HE MAY
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PAGE 02 STATE 064592

POSSIBLY CONVEY TO PATASSE AND FRENCH THAT US CONCERNED

ABOUT ESPIONAGE RUMORS WHICH, AS FAR AS WE AWARE, HAVE NOT
YET COME FROM ANY OFFICIAL GOCAR SOURCES. DEPARTMENT
SUGGESTS AMBASSADOR DISCUSS WITH PCD KIMMINS LANGUAGE TO BE
USED IN HIS RESPONSE TO GOCAR-FRENCH AUTHORITIES CONCERN-
ING PEACE CORPS DELAY IN PROVIDING DEFINITIVE RESPONSE

RE PROJECT. IF YOU CONCUR, SUGGEST YOU ADVISE KIMMINS
AGAINST CITING ESPIONAGE RUMORS AS REASON FOR DELAY
OR CONVEYING TO FRENCH OR GOCAR AUTHORITIES IMPRESSION
THAT US OVERLY CONCERNED WITH THESE RUMORS. INGERSOLL

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